SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
10c ALL NEW STORIES
DEC.
NO. 104
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BATMAN
Featuring
"The CREATURE from 20,000 FATHOMS!"

Star of
"*That Certain Feeling*"—
a Paramount picture.

draw

Bob Hope!

YOU MAY WIN
A $375.00 SCHOLARSHIP
IN PROFESSIONAL ART

Contest winner gets a complete art course—free training for a money-making career in advertising art, illustrating or cartooning. As winner, you're coached, individually, by professional artists on the staff of world's largest home study art school. Many successful artists today have studied with this school, founded over 40 years ago. Try for this free art course! Prize includes a drawing outfit and valuable art textbooks.

USE 1 COUPON—
THEN PASS THIS PAGE ON TO A FRIEND

DRAW BOB HOPE'S HEAD 5 inches high. Use pencil. Drawings for November 1956 contest must be received by November 30. None returned. Winner notified. Amateurs only. Our students not eligible. Mail your drawing today.

1 **ART INSTRUCTION, INC.** • STUDIO 10506
500 South 4th Street, Minneapolis 15, Minnesota
Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____ AGE_____
Address_____ Phone_____
City_____ Zone____ County_____
State_____ Occupation_____

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City_____ Zone____ County_____
State_____ Occupation_____

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

IT'S THE BIGGEST SENSATION OF HIS CAREER WHEN BATMAN'S GREATLY GUARDED SECRET IS KNOWN! YES, WHEN HIS IDENTITY AS BRUCE WAYNE IS REVEALED, HIS AND ROBIN'S CRIME-CHASING CAREERS ARE IMPERILED BY...

THE MAN WHO KNEW BATMAN'S SECRET!

I CAUGHT YOU WITH YOUR MASK OFF--AND I KNOW WHO YOU REALLY ARE, BATMAN!

BOB KANE

ONE NIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY, A WAR WEAPON BECOMES A CRIME WEAPON!

THE BAZOOKA WE GRABBED FROM THE WAR MUSEUM DID THE JOB!

YEAH, IT BLEW A HOLE THROUGH THE WALL AND RIGHT INTO THE SAFE--LET'S GET IN AND CLEAN UP FAST!

BUT THE ATTEMPTED THEFT DOESN'T GO UNDETECTED BY A PATROLLING DUO...

THAT EXPLOSION CAME FROM THIS AREA--LOOK, THE SIDE OF GOTHAM BANK HAS A HOLE IN IT!

SCREEEEEE

SOMEONE BLASTED INTO THE SAFE--BUT WE'LL TRAP THEM AT IT!

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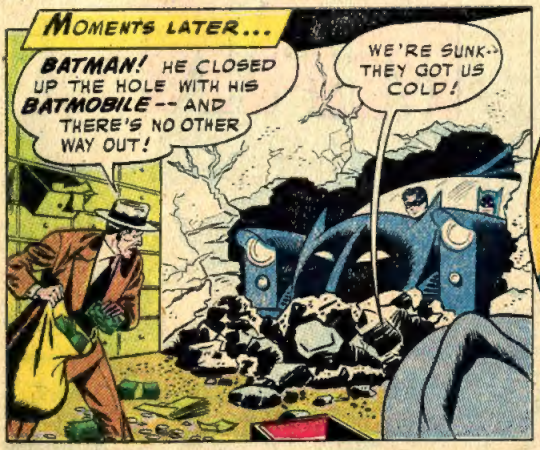
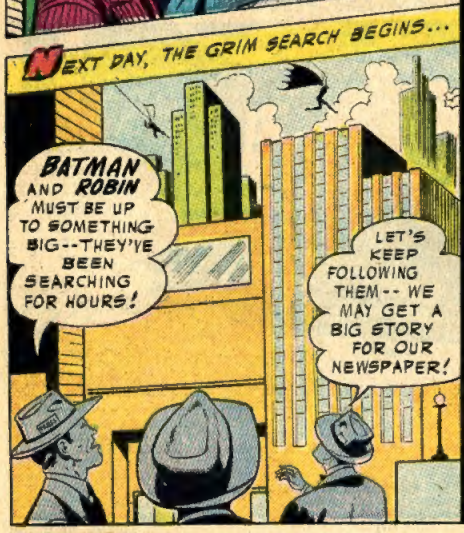

MOMENTS LATER...
BATMAN! HE CLOSED UP THE HOLE WITH HIS BATMOBILE -- AND THERE'S NO OTHER WAY OUT!
WE'RE SUNK-- THEY GOT US COLD!

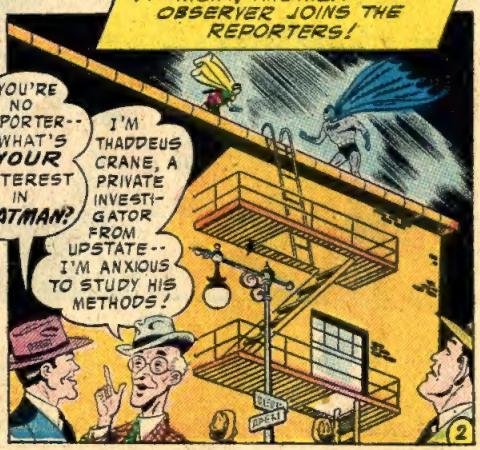
WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE...
YOU'VE WORKED FOR JOHN VARDEN IN THE PAST-- DID VARDEN PLAN THIS JOB?
NO! BUT VARDEN IS PLANNING A JOB THAT'LL MAKE YOU LOOK SICK! YOU JUST WAIT, BATMAN!

LATER, IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
VARDEN IS DANGEROUSLY CLEVER! YET WE'VE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIS HIDEOUT!
WE'VE GOT TO FIND HIM BEFORE HE STRIKES! THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO HUNT HIM OUT--

WHEN THE ANXIOUS DUO RETURN TO THEIR SECRET BAT-CAVE...
YOU'RE JUST IN TIME FOR DINNER, SIR! I TRUST ALL WENT WELL!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALFRED-- WE'VE GOT A BIG PROBLEM FACING US!

EVEN AFTER BECOMING BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON, THE PROBLEM PERSISTS...
WE'VE GOT TO HUNT DOWN VARDEN BEFORE HE ACTS!
RIGHT-- AND HERE'S HOW WE'LL DO IT! WE'LL START TOMORROW AND--

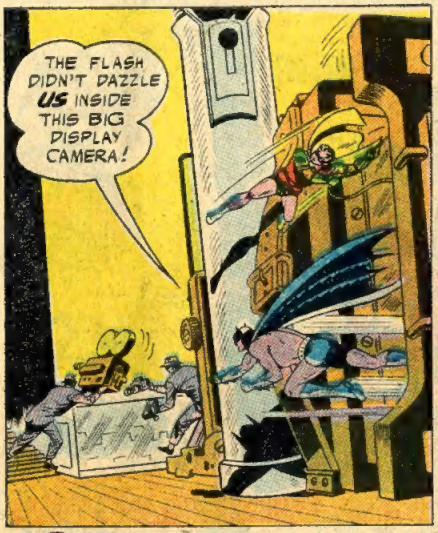

NEXT DAY, THE GRIM SEARCH BEGINS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE UP TO SOMETHING BIG--THEY'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HOURS!
LET'S KEEP FOLLOWING THEM-- WE MAY GET A BIG STORY FOR OUR NEWSPAPER!


AT NIGHT, ANOTHER OBSERVER JOINS THE REPORTERS!
YOU'RE NO REPORTER-- WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN BATMAN?
I'M THADDEUS CRANE, A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FROM UPSTATE-- I'M ANXIOUS TO STUDY HIS METHODS!
EIGHTH AVE.

BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEM TO HAVE LEFT-- MAYBE YOU CAN OVERTAKE THEM!
I WILL! I'VE MANY QUESTIONS TO ASK BATMAN!
PRESS
THADDEUS CRANE CLIMBS TO THE ROOF, AND THEN...
I'LL CHANGE BACK TO MY EVERYDAY IDENTITY AND THEN--
BATMAN LOOK OUT-- TOO LATE!
WHY--IT'S BATMAN-- WITH HIS MASK OFF! AND I KNOW HIM!
INSTANTLY, BATMAN REPLACES HIS MASK, BUT...
DID YOU HEAR THAT? THAT HICK PRIVATE DETECTIVE SAW BATMAN WITH HIS MASK OFF!
QUICK! THIS IS A BIG STORY!
YES-- I'M AFRAID IT'S TRUE! THIS MAN HAS LEARNED MY IDENTITY! I CAN ONLY ASK HIM TO KEEP IT SECRET!
YOU CAN RELY ON ME, BATMAN! I ADMIRE YOUR GREAT EXPLOITS-- I'LL NEVER TELL WHO YOU ARE!
THE SENSATIONAL NEWS ROCKS GOTHAM CITY!
GOTHAM GAZETTE
5¢
THIS MAN KNOWS BATMAN'S IDENTITY!
AMONG THOSE MOST INTERESTED IS JOHN VARDEN, MOBSTER CZAR...
TO THINK THIS HICK DETECTIVE, THADDEUS CRANE, KNOWS WHO BATMAN IS! IF WE COULD GET HIM TO TELL US--
WE COULD NAIL BATMAN FOR GOOD! WE'LL GET THAT SECRET FROM CRANE SOMEHOW!
THAT THREAT HAS BEEN EXPECTED BY COMMISSIONER GORDON, WHO SUMMONS THE TRIO TO HIS OFFICE...
BATMAN, THE UNDERWORLD MIGHT FORCE YOUR IDENTITY FROM CRANE! HE DOESN'T LOOK TOO BRIGHT!
ROBIN AND I WILL HAVE TO GUARD HIM-- HE DID SEE AND RECOGNIZE MY FACE!
3

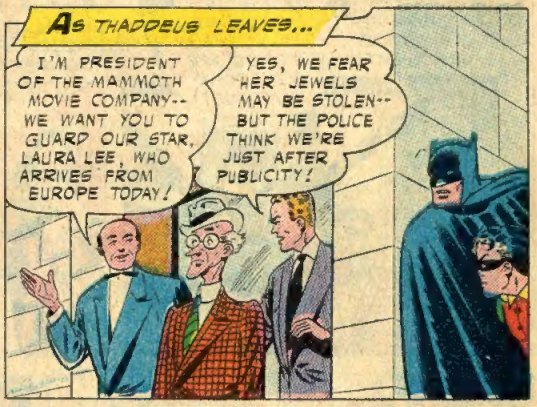
LOOK AT THOSE NEWSPAPER PEOPLE! THADDEUS CRANE IS FAMOUS NOW!
WE'D BETTER GET GOING IF WE'RE TO WATCH HIM, ROBIN!
LATER, AT A TELEVISION STUDIO...
--SO THADDEUS CRANE, DETECTIVE, SOLVED THE GREATEST OF ALL MYSTERIES-- BATMAN'S IDENTITY!
BUT I'LL NEVER REVEAL HIS SECRET, I WANT TO MAKE THAT CLEAR!
AFTER THE INTERVIEW...
OUR "WORLD CAMERA SHOW" IS TONIGHT--WE HAVE SUPER-VALUABLE CAMERAS ON EXHIBIT AND I WANT TO HIRE YOU TO GUARD THEM!
WELL--ER--ALL RIGHT--BUT I'LL GIVE MY FEE TO CHARITY!
WE'D BETTER BE AT THAT SHOW TO GUARD THE CAMERAS AND THADDEUS BOTH!
AND WE'VE STILL GOT JOHN VARDEN TO WORRY ABOUT!
AND AT THE CAMERA SHOW...
WITH A FAMOUS DETECTIVE LIKE THADDEUS CRANE GUARDING THE EQUIPMENT, THERE'S NO DANGER!
BUT SUDDENLY...
I CAN'T SEE--SOMEONE SET OFF THE GIANT FLASH-BULB!
GRAB THE MOST VALUABLE CAMERAS!

BUT TWO FIGURES EMERGE FROM THEIR SECRET HIDING PLACE...

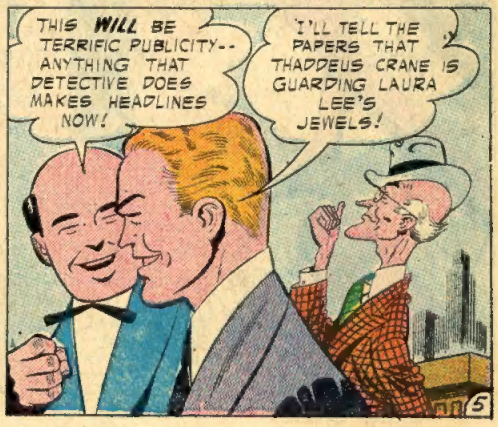


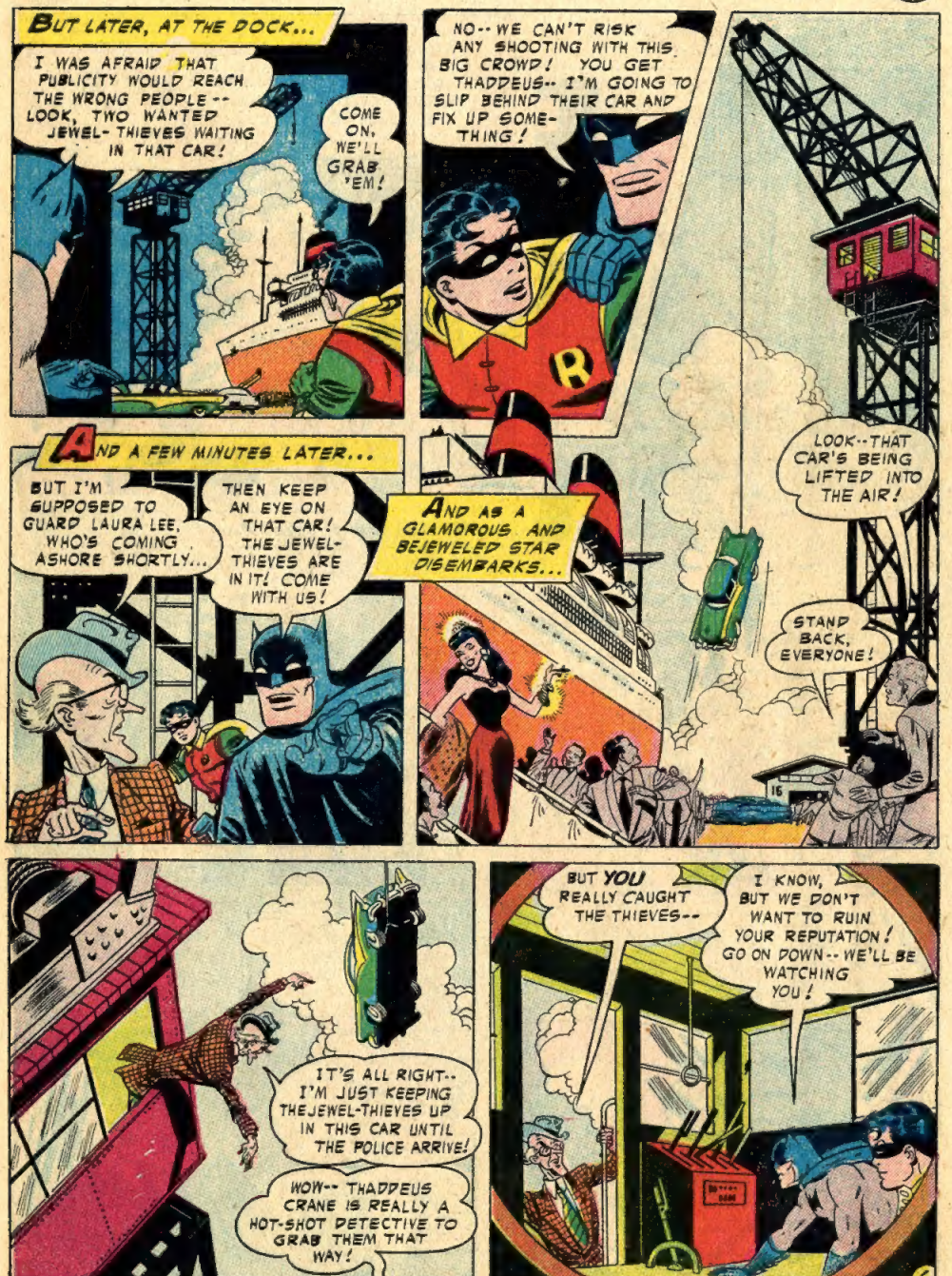
AND WHEN EVERYONE RECOVERS...

AS THADDEUS LEAVES...


I'M PRESIDENT OF THE MAMMOTH MOVIE COMPANY -- WE WANT YOU TO GUARD OUR STAR, LAURA LEE, WHO ARRIVES FROM EUROPE TODAY!
YES, WE FEAR HER JEWELS MAY BE STOLEN -- BUT THE POLICE THINK WE'RE JUST AFTER PUBLICITY!

CERTAINLY I'LL GUARD MISS LEE AND HER JEWELS -- JUST GIVE MY FEE TO CHARITY!
EXCELLENT -- WITH YOU ON GUARD AT THE DOCK, THERE'LL BE NO DANGER!


THIS WILL BE TERRIFIC PUBLICITY -- ANYTHING THAT MAKES HEADLINES NOW!
I'LL TELL THE PAPERS THAT THADDEUS CRANE IS GUARDING LAURA LEE'S JEWELS!


BUT LATER, AT THE DOCK...
I WAS AFRAID THAT PUBLICITY WOULD REACH THE WRONG PEOPLE -- LOOK, TWO WANTED JEWEL-THIEVES WAITING IN THAT CAR!
COME ON, WE'LL GRAB 'EM!
NO-- WE CAN'T RISK ANY SHOOTING WITH THIS BIG CROWD! YOU GET THADDEUS-- I'M GOING TO SLIP BEHIND THEIR CAR AND FIX UP SOMETHING!
AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...
BUT I'M SUPPOSED TO GUARD LAURA LEE, WHO'S COMING ASHORE SHORTLY...
THEN KEEP AN EYE ON THAT CAR! THE JEWEL-THIEVES ARE IN IT! COME WITH US!
AND AS A GLAMOROUS AND BEJEWELED STAR DISEMBARKS...
LOOK--THAT CAR'S BEING LIFTED INTO THE AIR!
STAND BACK, EVERYONE!
IT'S ALL RIGHT-- I'M JUST KEEPING THE JEWEL-THIEVES UP IN THIS CAR UNTIL THE POLICE ARRIVE!
WOW-- THADDEUS CRANE IS REALLY A HOT-SHOT DETECTIVE TO GRAB THEM THAT WAY!
BUT YOU REALLY CAUGHT THE THIEVES--
I KNOW, BUT WE DON'T WANT TO RUIN YOUR REPUTATION! GO ON DOWN-- WE'LL BE WATCHING YOU!
6

AND IT'S WELL THAT BATMAN KEEPS WATCH!
YES, I LOST MY LIFE-SAVINGS SOMEHOW WHEN I LEFT HOME! A GREAT DETECTIVE LIKE YOU COULD FIND MY MONEY!
I'LL TRY-- I'LL GO WITH YOU AND SEE IF THERE'S ANY CLUE!
ROBIN, THAT'S ONE OF VARDEN'S MEN-- WE'LL FOLLOW THEM!
THERE COMES THE BATMOBILE! VARDEN WAS RIGHT-- BATMAN'S CLOSELY GUARDING CRANE, WHO KNOWS HIS SECRET!
WE'LL STOP BATMAN, THE WAY WE FIGURED!
QUICK, BLOCK THE STREET-- THE BATMOBILE'S COMING FAST!
SPORT SHOP
THAT SIGN WAS PULLED DOWN TO STOP US -- VARDEN MUST HAVE FIGURED WE'D FOLLOW!
THAT "FOOTBALL" IS MADE OF CARDBOARD! I CAN HAUL IT OUT OF THE WAY!
EEEEE
AND MOMENTS LATER...
IT'LL BE OUT OF THE WAY HERE!
ROBIN, THEY DELAYED US LONG ENOUGH TO GET OUT OF SIGHT WITH THADDEUS!
SOON, IN THE HOUSE WHERE HE'D BEEN LURED...
NO, I WON'T TELL YOU WHO BATMAN IS-- NEVER! I KNOW YOU-- YOU'RE JOHN VARDEN!
LOCK HIM IN, MEN-- THE TRAP WE SET UP FOR BATMAN WILL GET HIM THE FIRST TIME HE ANSWERS THE BAT-SIGNAL!

THEN, AS THEY WAIT...
HE BROKE THROUGH THAT THIN DOOR LIKE WE FIGURED! AND NOW HE'LL SURELY WARN BATMAN BY PHONE!
YEAH, AND THAT TRICK PHONE ISN'T CONNECTED BUT WILL RECORD BATMAN'S PHONE NUMBER AS HE DIALS IT-- AND THAT'LL GIVE US HIS IDENTITY!
BUT, AN INSTANT LATER...
HE DIDN'T NEED TO PHONE, VARDEN-- WE GAVE HIM A BELT-RADIO AND HE CALLED US! IT WAS IN HIS BIG, OLD-FASHIONED WATCH!
WHY-- IT WAS A TRICK TO FIND ME--
LATER, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
WE WERE SURE VARDEN WOULD TRY TO GRAB THADDEUS TO GET MY SECRET IDENTITY FROM HIM-- SO WE SET UP OUR OWN TRAP FOR HIM!
I WAS GLAD TO HELP BATMAN FIND VARDEN-- BUT NOW I'M GOING HOME! THE CITY'S TOO EXCITING FOR ME!
IT'LL ALWAYS MAKE ME UNEASY-- THE FACT THAT HE KNOWS YOUR REAL IDENTITY, BATMAN!
DON'T WORRY-- I FEEL SURE HE'LL NEVER TELL! WELL, WE'D BETTER GET HOME, ROBIN!
SHORTLY IN THE BAT-CAVE...
DID I DO WELL, SIR?
SPLENDIDLY-- BUT YOU CAN TAKE OFF THAT DISGUISE NOW, ALFRED!
ALFRED? BATMAN'S LOYAL BUTLER?
YOU'RE STILL THE ONLY PERSON TO KNOW OUR IDENTITIES! SO WHEN YOU, IN DISGUISE, PRETENDED TO SURPRISE ME UNMASKED, IT DIDN'T REALLY LET OUT OUR SECRET!
AND IT DID FOOL VARDEN, AND DRAW HIM INTO OUR TRAP!
NOBODY WILL EVER FIND THADDEUS CRANE, THE MYTHICAL DETECTIVE WHO KNOWS BATMAN'S SECRET!
NOT MYTHICAL, SIR! MY MIDDLE NAMES ARE THADDEUS CRANE, YOU KNOW-- AND I FANCY I'VE PROVED THAT I AM A REAL DETECTIVE!
8
END.

CASEY
THE COP
LOOK AT THAT CAR SPEED!
HENRY BOLTHOFF
PULL OVER!
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
YOU WERE GOING SIXTY MILES AN HOUR — THAT'S ALL!
AN HOUR? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, OFFICER. I'VE BEEN DRIVING ONLY TEN MINUTES!
END

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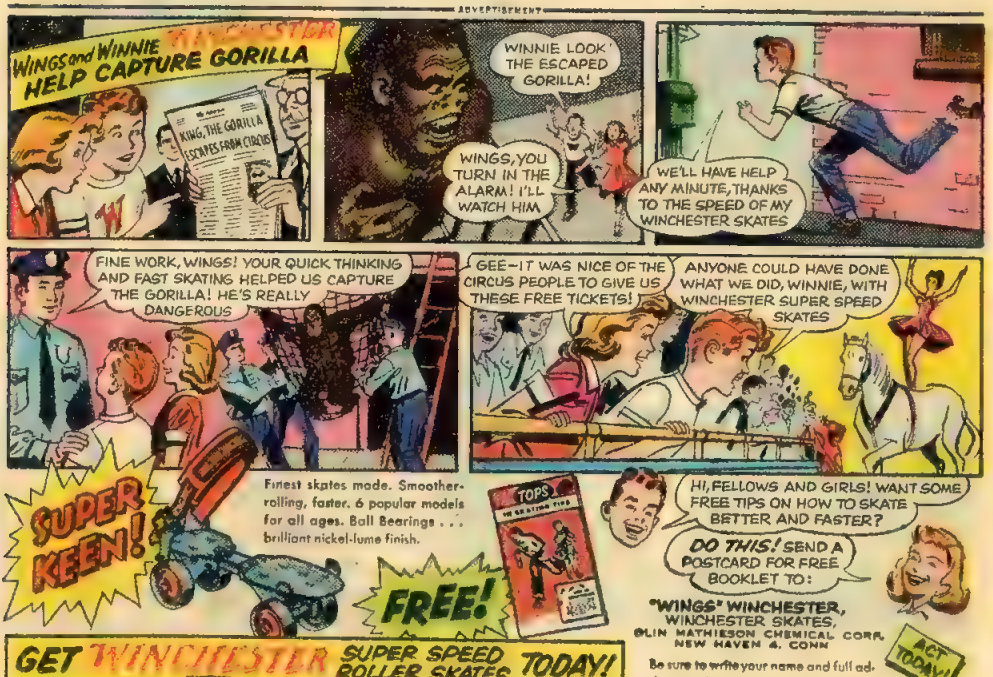
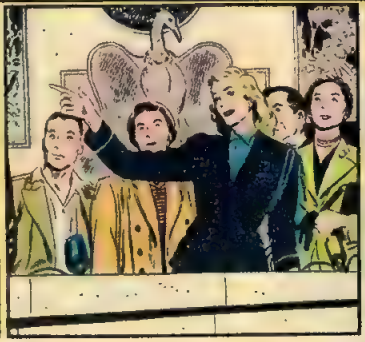

WINGS and WINNIE HELP CAPTURE GORILLA
WINCHESTER
KING, THE GORILLA ESCAPES FROM CIRCUS
WINNIE LOOK! THE ESCAPED GORILLA!
WINGS, YOU TURN IN THE ALARM! I'LL WATCH HIM
WE'LL HAVE HELP ANY MINUTE, THANKS TO THE SPEED OF MY WINCHESTER SKATES
FINE WORK, WINGS! YOUR QUICK THINKING AND FAST SKATING HELPED US CAPTURE THE GORILLA! HE'S REALLY DANGEROUS
GEE—IT WAS NICE OF THE CIRCUS PEOPLE TO GIVE US THESE FREE TICKETS!
ANYONE COULD HAVE DONE WHAT WE DID, WINNIE, WITH WINCHESTER SUPER SPEED SKATES
SUPER KEEN!
Finest skates made. Smoother-rolling, faster. 6 popular models for all ages. Ball Bearings . . . brilliant nickel-lume finish.
TOPS
FREE!
HI, FELLOWS AND GIRLS! WANT SOME FREE TIPS ON HOW TO SKATE BETTER AND FASTER?
DO THIS! SEND A POSTCARD FOR FREE BOOKLET TO:
"WINGS" WINCHESTER, WINCHESTER SKATES, OLIN MATHIESON CHEMICAL CORP. NEW HAVEN 4, CONN
ACT TODAY!
Be sure to write your name and full address on the other side of the postcard.
GET WINCHESTER SUPER SPEED ROLLER SKATES TODAY!

Gifts to the UNITED NATIONS!

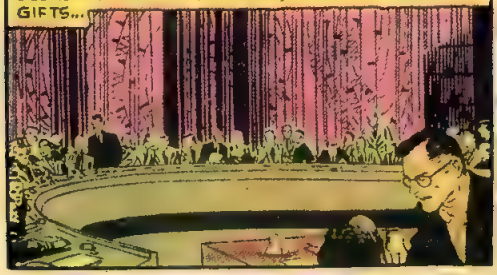
ALONG THE EAST RIVER IN NEW YORK CITY STRETCHES SIX BLOCKS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRITORY -- THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. HERE 76 MEMBER NATIONS WORK TOGETHER FOR WORLD PEACE.

EACH YEAR, MORE THAN 800,000 PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD VISIT THE UN, WHERE THEY SEE THE MANY GIFTS FROM MEMBER NATIONS, GIVEN TO EXPRESS THEIR HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL FUTURE.

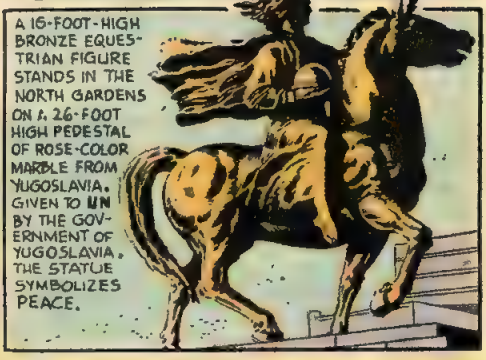


UNDER A JAPANESE SHRINE-LIKE STRUCTURE MADE OF JAPANESE CYPRESS WOOD, IS THE "PEACE BELL," CAST FROM COINS OF 60 NATIONS -- A GIFT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN.

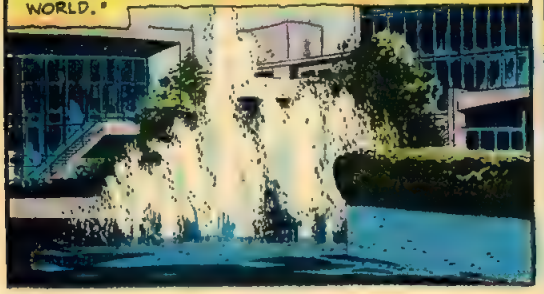
THE HUGE RED CURTAIN, SPECIALLY WOVEN OF WOOL AND HEMP AND WEIGHING 770 POUNDS, WHICH EXTENDS ACROSS THE EAST SIDE OF THE MEETING ROOM OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL, IS ONE OF SWEDEN'S GIFTS...



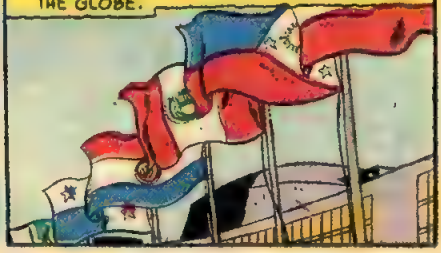
A 16-FOOT-HIGH BRONZE EQUESTRIAN FIGURE STANDS IN THE NORTH GARDENS ON A 26-FOOT HIGH PEDESTAL OF ROSE-COLOR MARBLE FROM YUGOSLAVIA. GIVEN TO UN BY THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA, THE STATUE SYMBOLIZES PEACE.



THE CENTRAL FOUNTAIN, AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE UN SECRETARIAT BUILDING, WAS PRESENTED TO THE UNITED NATIONS BY THE CHILDREN OF THE UNITED STATES AND ITS TERRITORIES AS A "GESTURE OF FRIENDSHIP TO THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD."



AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY BUILDING FLY THE FLAGS OF THE 76 MEMBER NATIONS, PLACED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER. THIS PROUD AND COLORFUL SIGHT IS A REMINDER TO ALL VISITORS OF THE HOPES FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD WHICH IS SHARED BY PEOPLES AROUND THE GLOBE.



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CLUE CARTOON

Can you solve it?

3 8-LETTER WORDS CAN BE SPELLED USING ALL 8 LETTERS SHOWN, IN EACH WORD. THE **CLUE CARTOON** WILL LEAD YOU TO THE FIRST WORD YOU ARE SEEKING. FOR THE SOLUTION TO THE OTHERS YOU ARE STRICTLY ON YOUR OWN. REMEMBER NOW, GIVE IT A GOOD TRY AND NO FAIR PEEKING AT THE ANSWER!

The ANSWER

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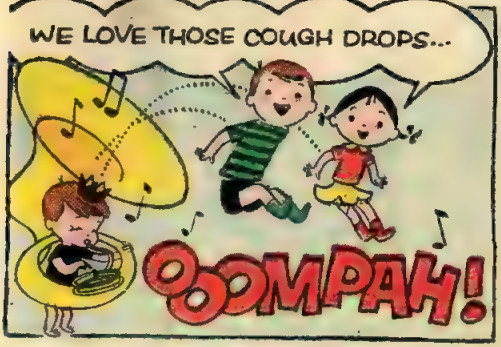
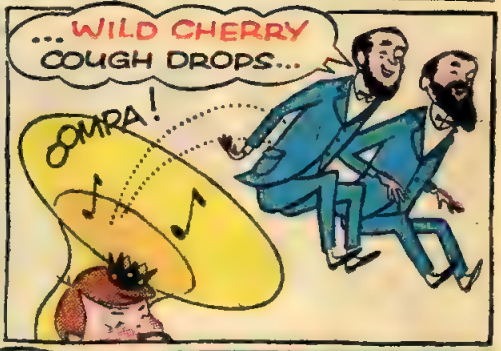
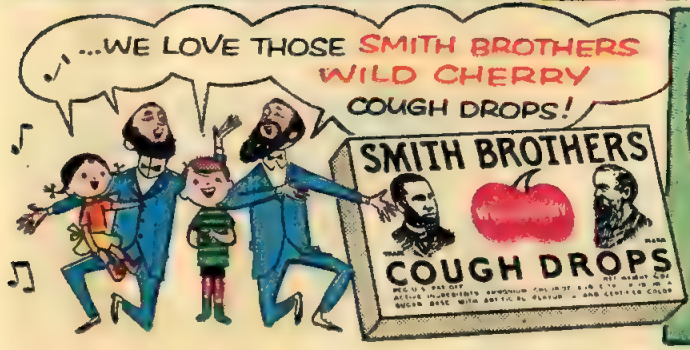






FAST COUGH RELIEF—AND OFF-LICIOUS TOO!

For really quick relief—this is it! And are they good—tantalizing Wild Cherry flavor that everybody loves. So get Smith Brothers Wild Cherry Cough Drops today!

BATMAN

With ROBIN THE BOY WONDER

THIS IS A CASE IN WHICH **BATMAN** DOES NOT APPEAR--EVEN THOUGH **BATMAN** CAN BE SEEN EVERYWHERE! IT IS ALSO THE STORY OF **ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER,** WHO HAD TO BATTLE A CRIMINAL GANG ALL ALONE--EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS A **BATMAN** CONSTANTLY BESIDE HIM! IMPOSSIBLE? NOT AT ALL -- FOR YOU'LL READ THE ASTOUNDING ANSWER IN-THE SUSPENSEFUL ADVENTURE OF...

ROBIN'S 50 BATMAN PARTNERS

HAW! THAT **ROBOT-BATMAN** WILL TAKE CARE OF **ROBIN** FOR US!

BOB LANE

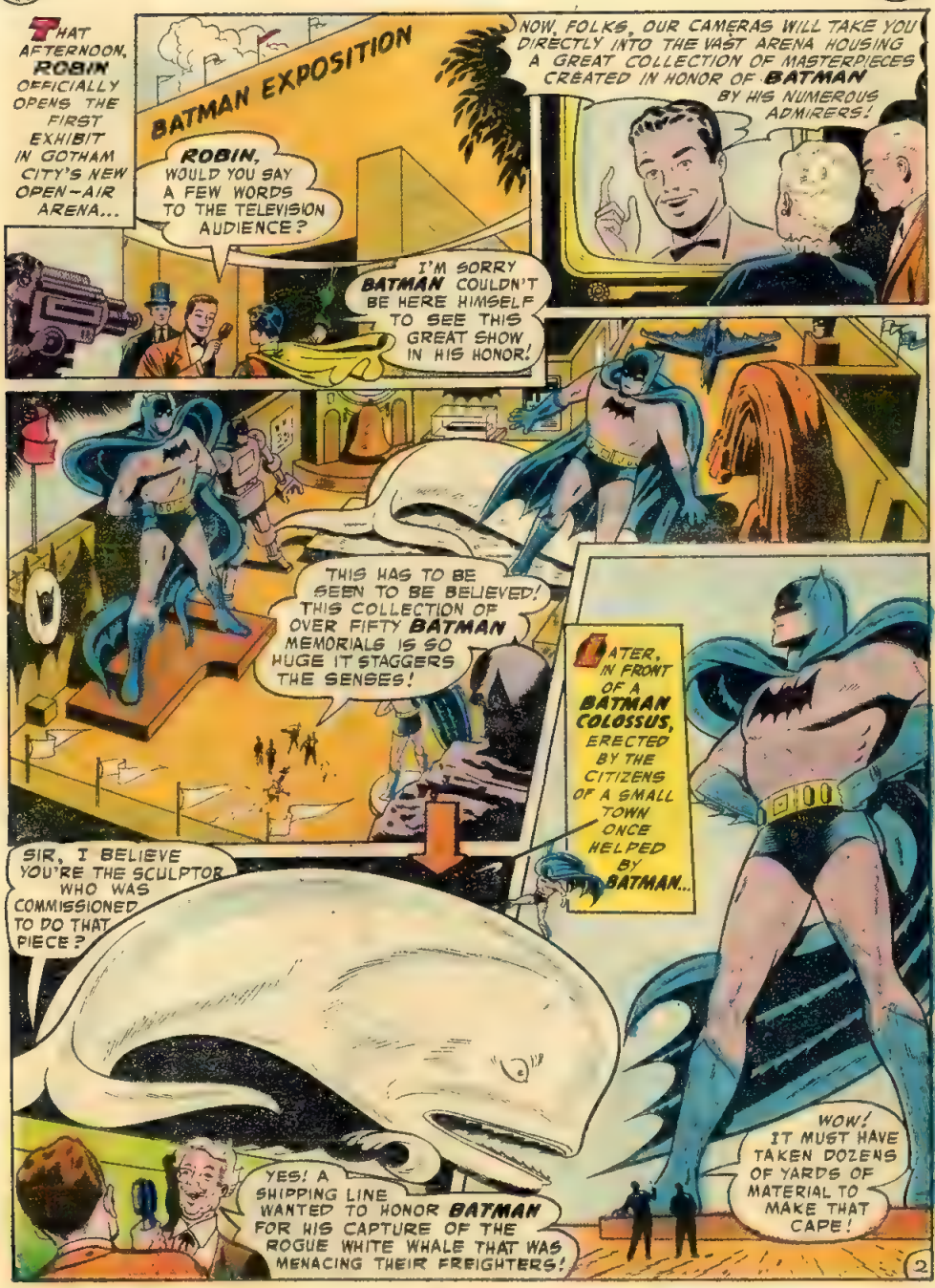
AT THE BRUCE WAYNE MANSION IN GOTHAM CITY ONE DAY, **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RETURN UNEXPECTEDLY FROM THEIR REGULAR PATROL...

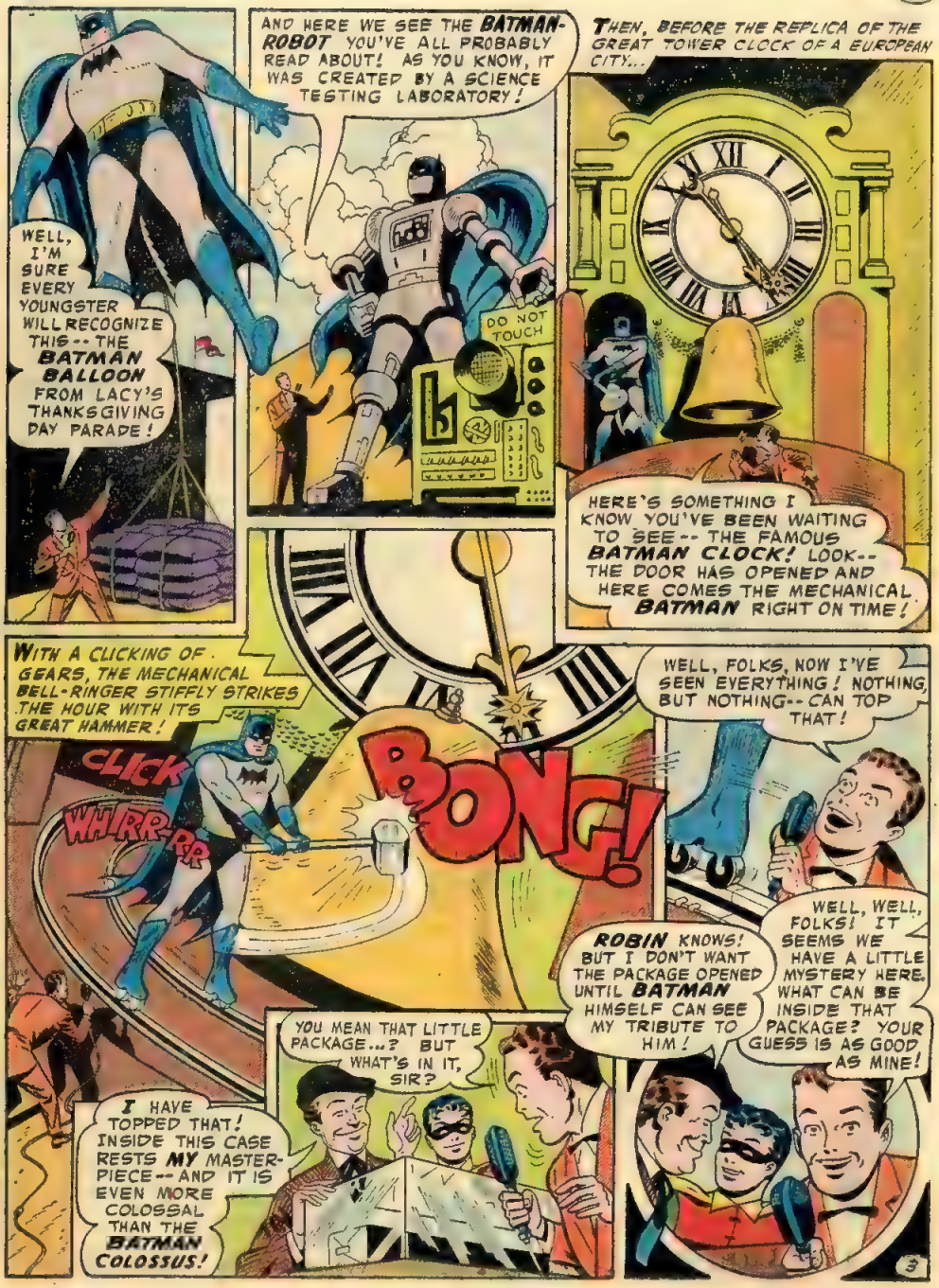
OH! WHAT'S HAPPENED TO THE MAWSTER? AN ACCIDENT?

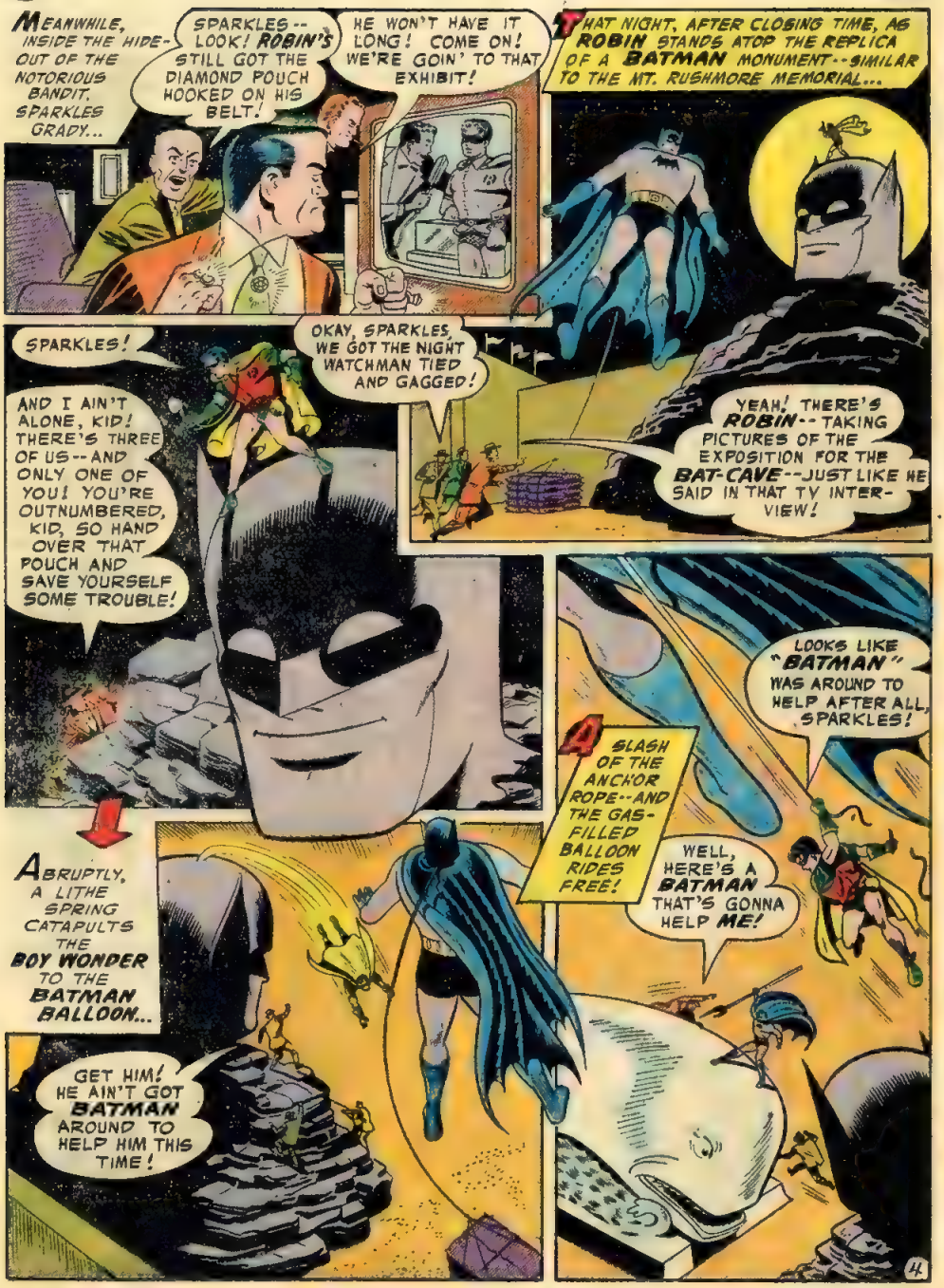
YES, ALFRED! **BATMAN** BROKE HIS ANKLE WHILE WE WERE FIGHTING THE "**SPARKLES**" **GRADY** MOB! THEY WERE AFTER THE DIAMONDS WE RECOVERED FOR RAJAH PUNJAB!

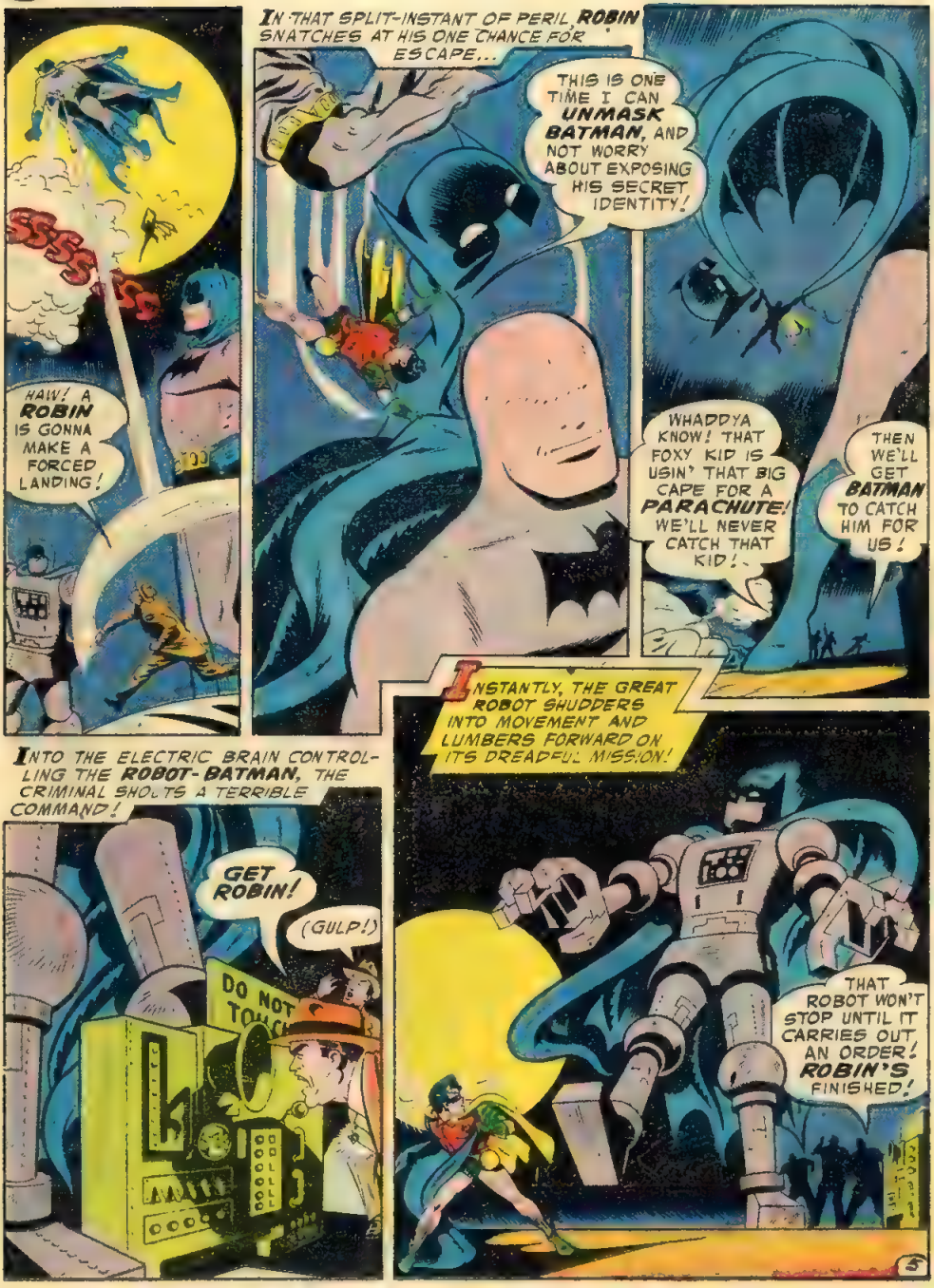
LATER, AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** DOFF THEIR COSTUMES TO TAKE ON THEIR SECRET IDENTITIES OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

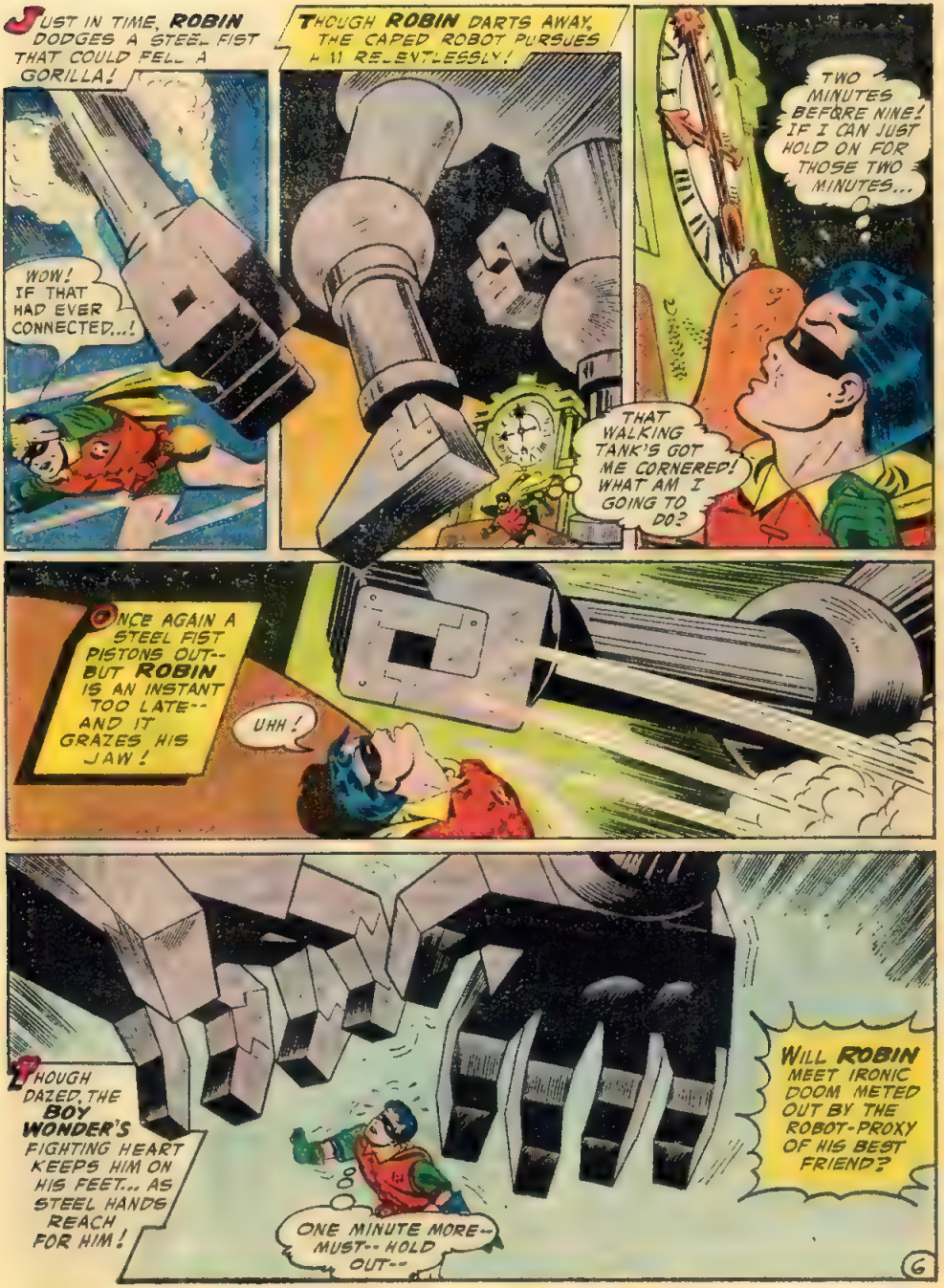
NOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO CUT THE TAPE AT THE EXPOSITION THIS AFTERNOON! YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE OVER FOR ME, DICK!


THAT AFTERNOON, ROBIN OFFICIALLY OPENS THE FIRST EXHIBIT IN GOTHAM CITY'S NEW OPEN-AIR ARENA...
BATMAN EXPOSITION
ROBIN, WOULD YOU SAY A FEW WORDS TO THE TELEVISION AUDIENCE?
I'M SORRY BATMAN COULDN'T BE HERE HIMSELF TO SEE THIS GREAT SHOW IN HIS HONOR!
NOW, FOLKS, OUR CAMERAS WILL TAKE YOU DIRECTLY INTO THE VAST ARENA HOUSING A GREAT COLLECTION OF MASTERPIECES CREATED IN HONOR OF BATMAN BY HIS NUMEROUS ADMIRERS!
THIS HAS TO BE SEEN TO BE BELIEVED! THIS COLLECTION OF OVER FIFTY BATMAN MEMORIALS IS SO HUGE IT STAGGERS THE SENSES!
LATER, IN FRONT OF A BATMAN COLOSSUS, ERECTED BY THE CITIZENS OF A SMALL TOWN ONCE HELPED BY BATMAN...
SIR, I BELIEVE YOU'RE THE SCULPTOR WHO WAS COMMISSIONED TO DO THAT PIECE?
YES! A SHIPPING LINE WANTED TO HONOR BATMAN FOR HIS CAPTURE OF THE ROGUE WHITE WHALE THAT WAS MENACING THEIR FREIGHTERS!
WOW! IT MUST HAVE TAKEN DOZENS OF YARDS OF MATERIAL TO MAKE THAT CAPE!


WELL, I'M SURE EVERY YOUNGSTER WILL RECOGNIZE THIS -- THE BATMAN BALLOON FROM LACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE!
AND HERE WE SEE THE BATMAN-ROBOT YOU'VE ALL PROBABLY READ ABOUT! AS YOU KNOW, IT WAS CREATED BY A SCIENCE TESTING LABORATORY!
DO NOT TOUCH
THEN, BEFORE THE REPLICA OF THE GREAT TOWER CLOCK OF A EUROPEAN CITY...
HERE'S SOMETHING I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE -- THE FAMOUS BATMAN CLOCK! LOOK -- THE DOOR HAS OPENED AND HERE COMES THE MECHANICAL BATMAN RIGHT ON TIME!
WITH A CLICKING OF GEARS, THE MECHANICAL BELL-RINGER STIFFLY STRIKES THE HOUR WITH ITS GREAT HAMMER!
CLICK
WHRR-RR
BONG!
WELL, FOLKS, NOW I'VE SEEN EVERYTHING! NOTHING, BUT NOTHING -- CAN TOP THAT!
ROBIN KNOWS! BUT I DON'T WANT THE PACKAGE OPENED UNTIL BATMAN HIMSELF CAN SEE MY TRIBUTE TO HIM!
WELL, WELL, FOLKS! IT SEEMS WE HAVE A LITTLE MYSTERY HERE. WHAT CAN BE INSIDE THAT PACKAGE? YOUR GUESS IS AS GOOD AS MINE!
YOU MEAN THAT LITTLE PACKAGE...? BUT WHAT'S IN IT, SIR?
I HAVE TOPPED THAT! INSIDE THIS CASE RESTS MY MASTER-PIECE -- AND IT IS EVEN MORE COLOSSAL THAN THE BATMAN COLOSSUS!
3


MEANWHILE, INSIDE THE HIDE-OUT OF THE NOTORIOUS BANDIT, SPARKLES GRADY...
SPARKLES--LOOK! ROBIN'S STILL GOT THE DIAMOND POUCH HOOKED ON HIS BELT!
HE WON'T HAVE IT LONG! COME ON! WE'RE GOIN' TO THAT EXHIBIT!
THAT NIGHT, AFTER CLOSING TIME, AS ROBIN STANDS ATOP THE REPLICA OF A BATMAN MONUMENT--SIMILAR TO THE MT. RUSHMORE MEMORIAL...
YEAH! THERE'S ROBIN--TAKING PICTURES OF THE EXPOSITION FOR THE BAT-CAVE--JUST LIKE HE SAID IN THAT TV INTER-VIEW!
OKAY, SPARKLES, WE GOT THE NIGHT WATCHMAN TIED AND GAGGED!
SPARKLES!
AND I AIN'T ALONE, KID! THERE'S THREE OF US--AND ONLY ONE OF YOU! YOU'RE OUTNUMBERED, KID, SO HAND OVER THAT POUCH AND SAVE YOURSELF SOME TROUBLE!
ABRUPTLY, A LITHE SPRING CATAPULTS THE BOY WONDER TO THE BATMAN BALLOON...
GET HIM! HE AIN'T GOT BATMAN AROUND TO HELP HIM THIS TIME!
A SLASH OF THE ANCHOR ROPE--AND THE GAS-FILLED BALLOON RIDES FREE!
LOOKS LIKE "BATMAN" WAS AROUND TO HELP AFTER ALL, SPARKLES!
WELL, HERE'S A BATMAN THAT'S GONNA HELP ME!


SSSSSS
HAW! A ROBIN IS GONNA MAKE A FORCED LANDING!
IN THAT SPLIT-INSTANT OF PERIL, ROBIN SNATCHES AT HIS ONE CHANCE FOR ESCAPE...
THIS IS ONE TIME I CAN UNMASK BATMAN, AND NOT WORRY ABOUT EXPOSING HIS SECRET IDENTITY!
WHADDYA KNOW! THAT FOXY KID IS USIN' THAT BIG CAPE FOR A PARACHUTE! WE'LL NEVER CATCH THAT KID!
THEN WE'LL GET BATMAN TO CATCH HIM FOR US!
INSTANTLY, THE GREAT ROBOT SHUDDERS INTO MOVEMENT AND LUMBERS FORWARD ON ITS DREADFUL MISSION!
INTO THE ELECTRIC BRAIN CONTROLLING THE ROBOT-BATMAN, THE CRIMINAL SHOUTS A TERRIBLE COMMAND!
GET ROBIN!
(GULP!)
DO NOT TOUCH
THAT ROBOT WON'T STOP UNTIL IT CARRIES OUT AN ORDER! ROBIN'S FINISHED!
5


JUST IN TIME, ROBIN DODGES A STEEL FIST THAT COULD FELL A GORILLA!
WOW! IF THAT HAD EVER CONNECTED...!
THOUGH ROBIN DARTS AWAY, THE CAPED ROBOT PURSUES HIM RELENTLESSLY!
TWO MINUTES BEFORE NINE! IF I CAN JUST HOLD ON FOR THOSE TWO MINUTES...
THAT WALKING TANK'S GOT ME CORNERED! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
ONCE AGAIN A STEEL FIST PISTONS OUT-- BUT ROBIN IS AN INSTANT TOO LATE-- AND IT GRAZES HIS JAW!
UHH!
THOUGH DAZED, THE BOY WONDER'S FIGHTING HEART KEEPS HIM ON HIS FEET... AS STEEL HANDS REACH FOR HIM!
ONE MINUTE MORE-- MUST-- HOLD OUT--
WILL ROBIN MEET IRONIC DOOM METED OUT BY THE ROBOT-PROXY OF HIS BEST FRIEND?

SUDDENLY, A DOOR POPS OPEN AND ANOTHER ROBOT-LIKE BATMAN APPEARS, AS IF TO ACCEPT A CHALLENGE TO COMBAT!
WHIRRR
AS THE BELL-RINGER AUTOMATICALLY SWINGS THE HAMMER TO STRIKE THE HOUR, ROBIN DUCKS--AND...
CLANG
THIS IS WHY I HAD TO STALL FOR TWO MINUTES--I KNEW THE BELL-RINGER-BATMAN WOULD COME OUT TO TOLL THE HOUR!
AS THE GROGGY LAD TOTTERS AWAY...
I'M STILL TOO WEAK--CAN'T GET AWAY! THE MYSTERY PACKAGE--THAT'S SOMETHING THEY WON'T EXPECT!
THAT ROBOT'S PUNCH KNOCKED THE FIGHT OUT OF HIM! LET'S TAKE THAT BRAT RIGHT NOW!
WHIRR
ONE -MECHANICAL BATMAN WANTED TO TAKE MY LIFE--BUT ANOTHER MECHANICAL BATMAN SAVED IT!
FROM THE PACKAGE, ROBIN TAKES A TUBE AND POINTS IT SKYWARD--AND INSTANTLY A HISSING STREAK OF FLAME SKY-ROCKETS HIGH!
GOT TO SHADE MY EYES!
SSSSS

THE ROCKET BURSTS--AND LIKE A NEW SUN, A FACE OF FIREWORKS FLARES IN THE NIGHT SKY, DAZZLING THE EYES WITH ITS BRILLIANT BLAZE!
WHOOSH
BOOM
YOW! A GIANT HEAD OF BATMAN! MY EYES!
AS THE BANDITS STUMBLE ABOUT, TEMPORARILY BLINDED BY THE BURST OF GLARE...
THE BATMAN FIREWORKS DISPLAY IS FADING! NOW IT'S SAFE FOR ME TO UNCOVER MY EYES AND COVER THE SPARKLES GANG!
HEY! LEMME OUTA HERE!
LATER, AFTER SUMMONING THE POLICE...
3 OF US AGAINST ONE KID! HE BEAT US EVEN THOUGH WE HAD HIM OUTNUMBERED!
YOU'RE WRONG, SPARKLES! YOU WERE OUTNUMBERED!
YOU WERE SURROUNDED BY ALL THESE BATMEN! FIFTY OF THEM--AND EACH ONE MY PARTNER!
LATER... ROBIN, I'M SORRY I WASN'T THERE TO HELP YOU CAPTURE THAT GANG!
BELIEVE IT OR NOT, BATMAN, YOU WERE THERE ALL THE TIME!
THE END

CASEY THE COP

HENRY BOLTINOFF

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INVISIBLE DETECTIVES

When It Comes to Recovering Stolen Autos, These Men Are Aces

NOT long ago, a man walked onto the parking lot of a large eastern factory, moving stealthily to the side of a medium-priced automobile belonging to a worker.

Moving swiftly, he forced open a wide window to reach the inside handle. Once inside the car, he used a special device to "jump" the ignition, starting the engine. He then drove hurriedly to a private garage, where crooked mechanics went to work on the stolen car.

Special tools ground off the car's motor number, and license plates were substituted. A forged certificate of ownership was handed the thief, and a new motor number to match the number on the certificate was stamped on the motor.

The driver then got into the car and drove it to a used-car lot where he sold it to the innocent dealer for $1900.

At police headquarters that same night, the police chief frowned when he learned that another car—the third one that week—had been stolen.

"It looks to me like the work of a gang, using a crooked garage, and fully organized for a wave of car thefts," he muttered. "I'm going to call in the NATB!" he added, grimly.

Next morning, special agents of the NATB listened silently while the police chief acquainted them with his suspicions. At the close of the conference, the agents nodded and left, promising immediate action.

Exactly three days later, an NATB agent entered the office of the police chief and placed on his desk a sheet of paper containing the address of the crooked garage and the names of the gang's leaders. Squad cars went into action at once and several hours later the car-stealing gang found itself behind bars.

What is this mysterious NATB? And who are these special agents who remain in the background, are rarely seen, and go into action whenever called upon by local police forces?

The NATB stands for the National Automobile Theft Bureau. It has been tracking down car thieves for almost 40 years, operating so quietly that most people don't even know the bureau exists.

The bureau, a nonprofit organization, is financed by 233 companies which write automobile fire and theft insurance, although it takes cases that are not insured as well.

Agents of the NATB never make arrests themselves, a cardinal rule of the bureau being that its agents must never work independently of the local police.

The need for such a highly-trained invisible force, specializing in one single aspect of crime, is obvious. Police are trained to handle all categories of crime. But car-stealing gangs have become so adept at making off, and changing the appearance of, stolen autos, that a specially-trained force of experts became a necessity. That is how the NATB came into existence.

What has been its record since the bureau went into action almost half a century ago? The answer will amaze you. More than 90 per cent of all cars stolen have been returned to their original owners, thanks to the sleuthing of the invisible detectives of the NATB!

—Jack Miller

BATMAN WITH ROBIN -THE BOY WONDER-

NEVER DID **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** EVER THINK THEY WOULD BECOME BODYGUARDS TO A **LIVING FOSSIL**... YET, FANTASTIC AS IT SEEMS, THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS TAKE ON THEIR STRANGEST ASSIGNMENT WHEN THEY SEEK TO PREVENT THE MURDER OF A MONSTER MILLIONS OF YEARS OLD! HOW?... WHY? THE ANSWERS ARE AS STARTLING AS THE VERY DISCOVERY OF...

THE CREATURE FROM 20,000 FATHOMS

BOB KANE

ONE NIGHT, AS WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON; DON THE ACTION GARB OF THEIR OTHER IDENTITIES...

TONIGHT WE ATTEND OUR FIRST MEETING OF THE **SO FATHOMS CLUB!** REMEMBER IT **ROBIN?**

SURE, **BATMAN**... ONLY **UNDERWATER** SPECIALISTS CAN BECOME MEMBERS, BUT BECAUSE WE SAVED THE CLUB PRESIDENT'S LIFE WITH OUR **BAT-MARINE**, THEY MADE US HONORARY MEMBERS!

AS **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**, THE PAIR SOON JOINS THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE **SO FATHOMS CLUB**...

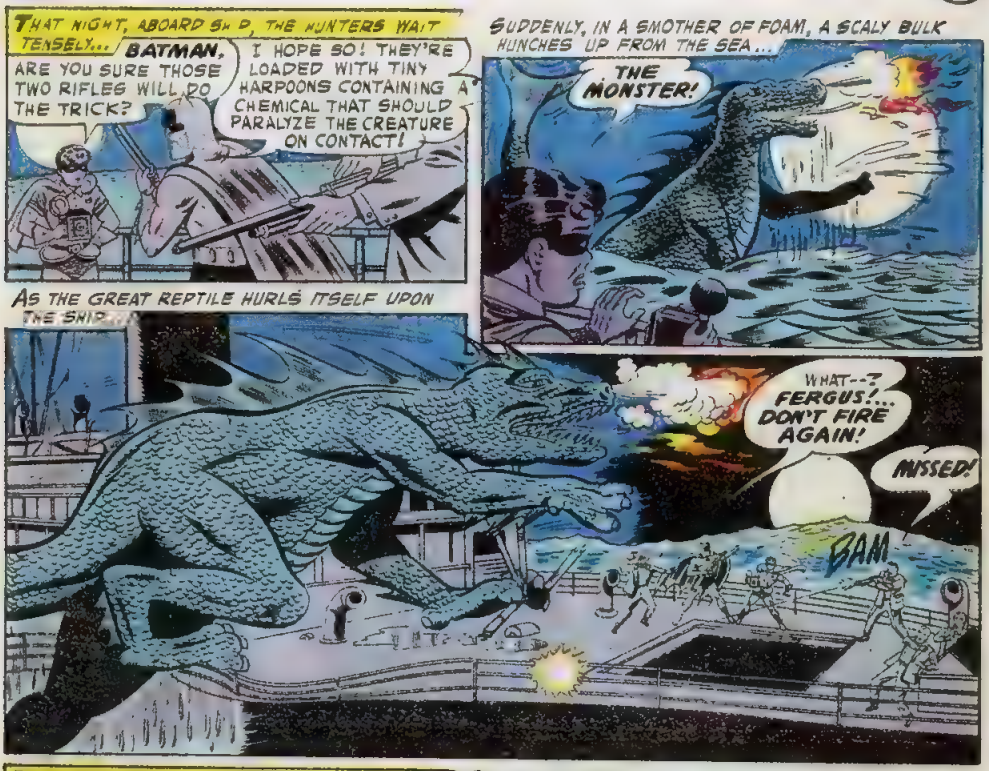
PROF. BRIGGS BATHYSPHERE EXPERT

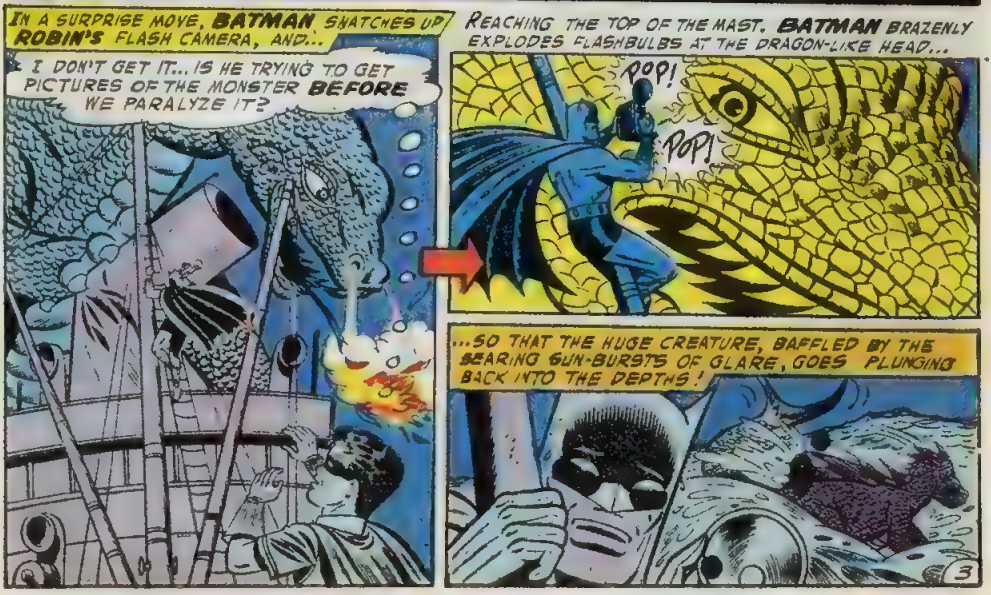
FERGUS...FROGMAN

DEYOE--DEEP-SEA DIVER

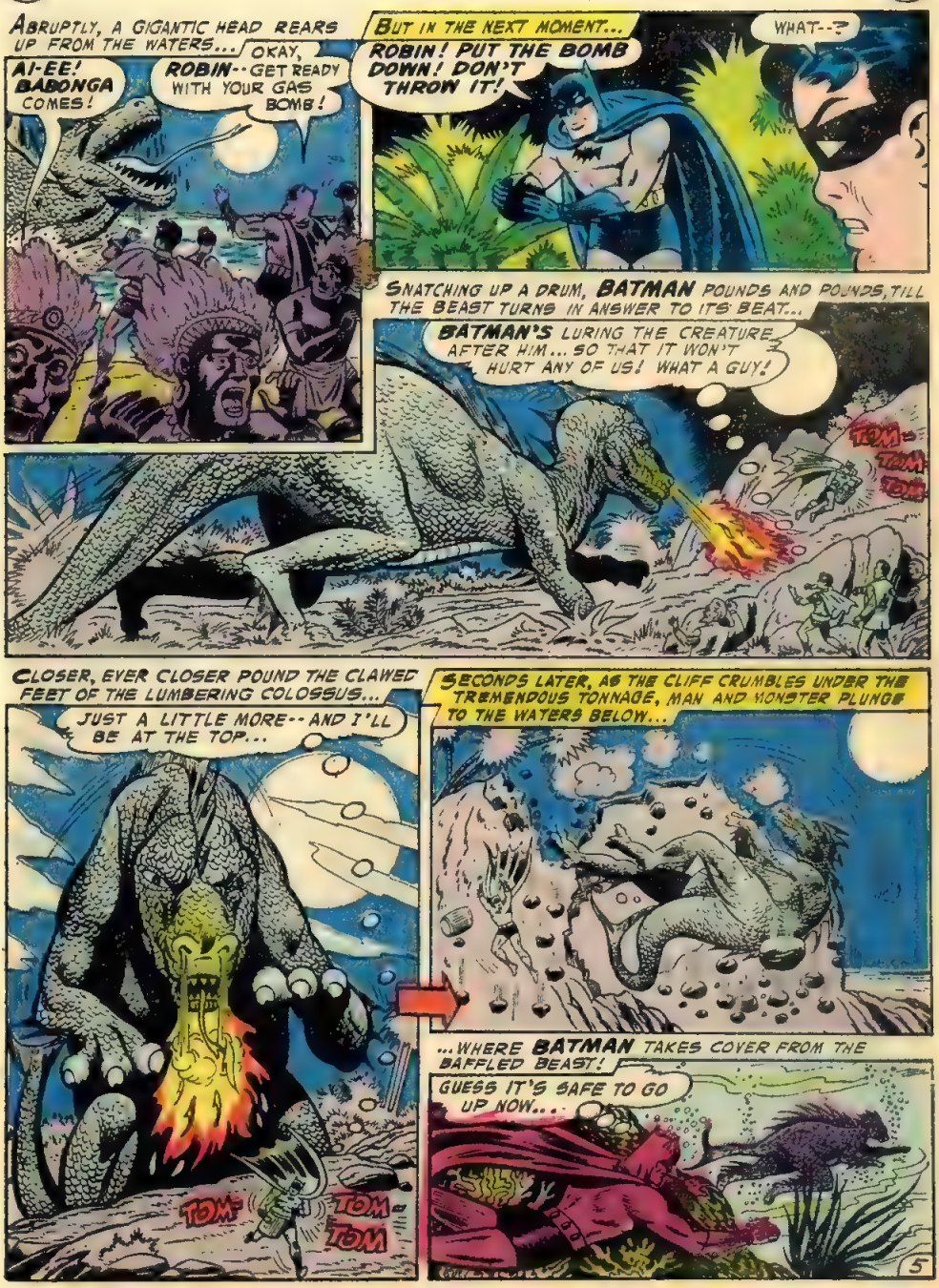
SLOAN RETIRED SUB COMMANDER

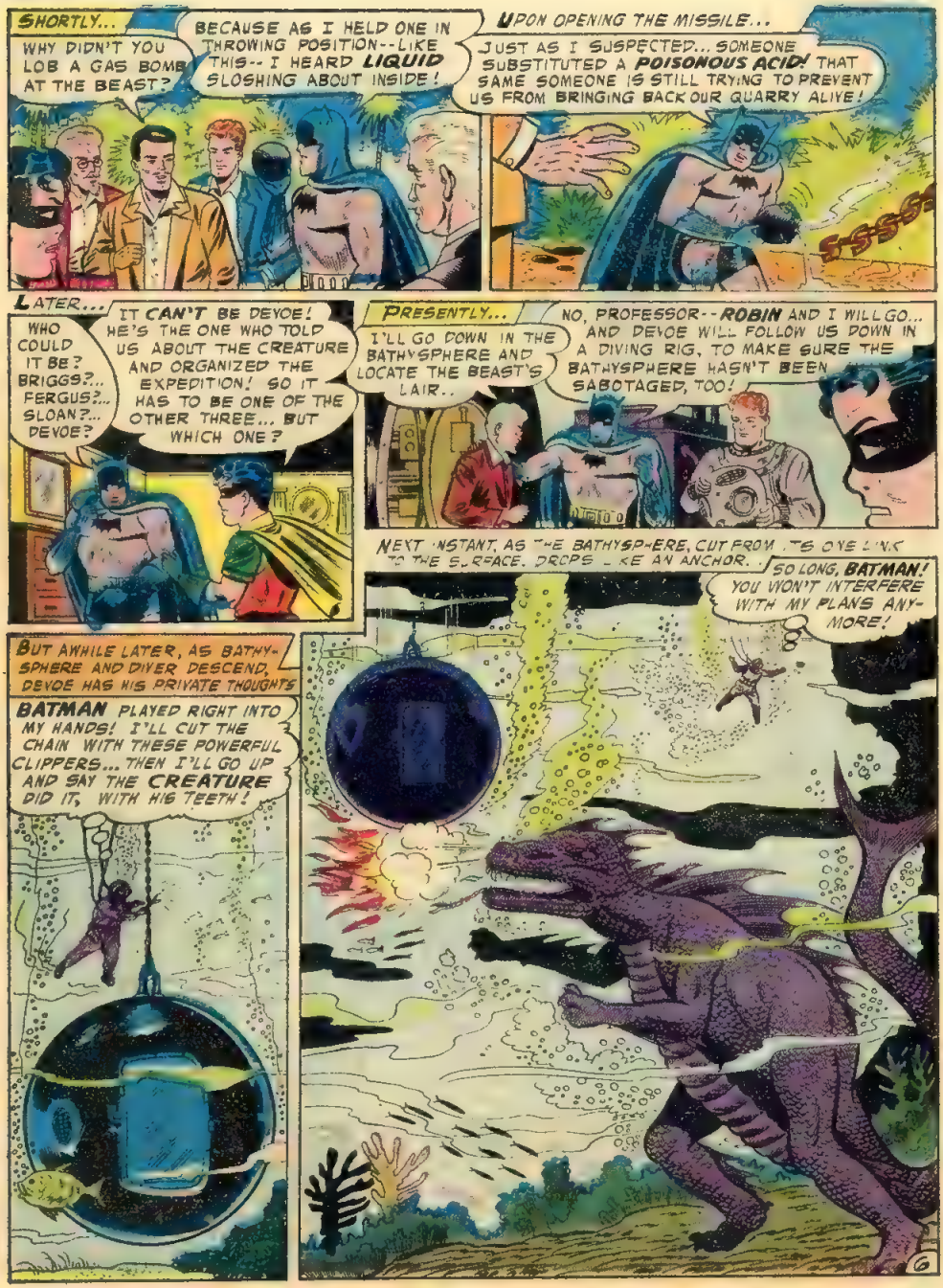
PROFESSOR JOHN BRIGGS, THE CLUB PRESIDENT, OPENS THE MEETING... MEMBER DEVOE HAS JUST RETURNED FROM A SALVAGE JOB IN THE PACIFIC! WHILE THERE, HE VISITED AN ISOLATED ISLAND THAT HE WILL TELL YOU ABOUT...
I HEARD THE ISLAND NATIVES LIVED IN TERROR OF A SEA MONSTER THEY CALLED BABONGA! AT FIRST I THOUGHT THIS WAS JUST NATIVE LEGEND--UNTIL I PHOTOGRAPHED BABONGA EMERGING ONTO THE BEACH!
GREAT SCOTT! A FIRE-BREATHING CREATURE OF THE DINOSAUR AGE--STILL ALIVE, AFTER MILLIONS OF YEARS!
IT'S A LIVING FOSSIL OF SOME UNKNOWN SPECIES!
IF WE COULD BRING BACK THAT BEAST ALIVE, WE'D MAKE A FORTUNE EXHIBITING IT!
BUT WE'D NEED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT, AND THAT WOULD TAKE FINANCING!
I'M SURE WE'D ALL BE WILLING TO MAKE EQUAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR SUCH AN EXPEDITION! HOW ABOUT YOU, BATMAN?
YES--IF YOU'LL GIVE MY SHARE OF THE EXHIBITION RECEIPTS TO CHARITY!
AND SO, DAYS LATER, AS TV AND NEWS CAMERAS RECORD THE HISTORIC SCENE, THE EXPEDITION SHIP SETS OFF ON AN EPIC ADVENTURE...
IMAGINE--TRYING TO BRING BACK A LIVE PRE-HISTORIC CREATURE! THAT'S WHAT I CALL LOOKING FOR TROUBLE!
W.C.P. TV
UPON REACHING THE ISLAND AND MAKING FRIENDS WITH THE NATIVES...
WE'RE IN LUCK, BATMAN! THE CHIEF SAYS THERE'LL BE A FULL MOON TONIGHT--AND THAT'S WHEN BOBONGA ALWAYS APPEARS!
GOOD... WE'LL BE READY FOR IT!
2

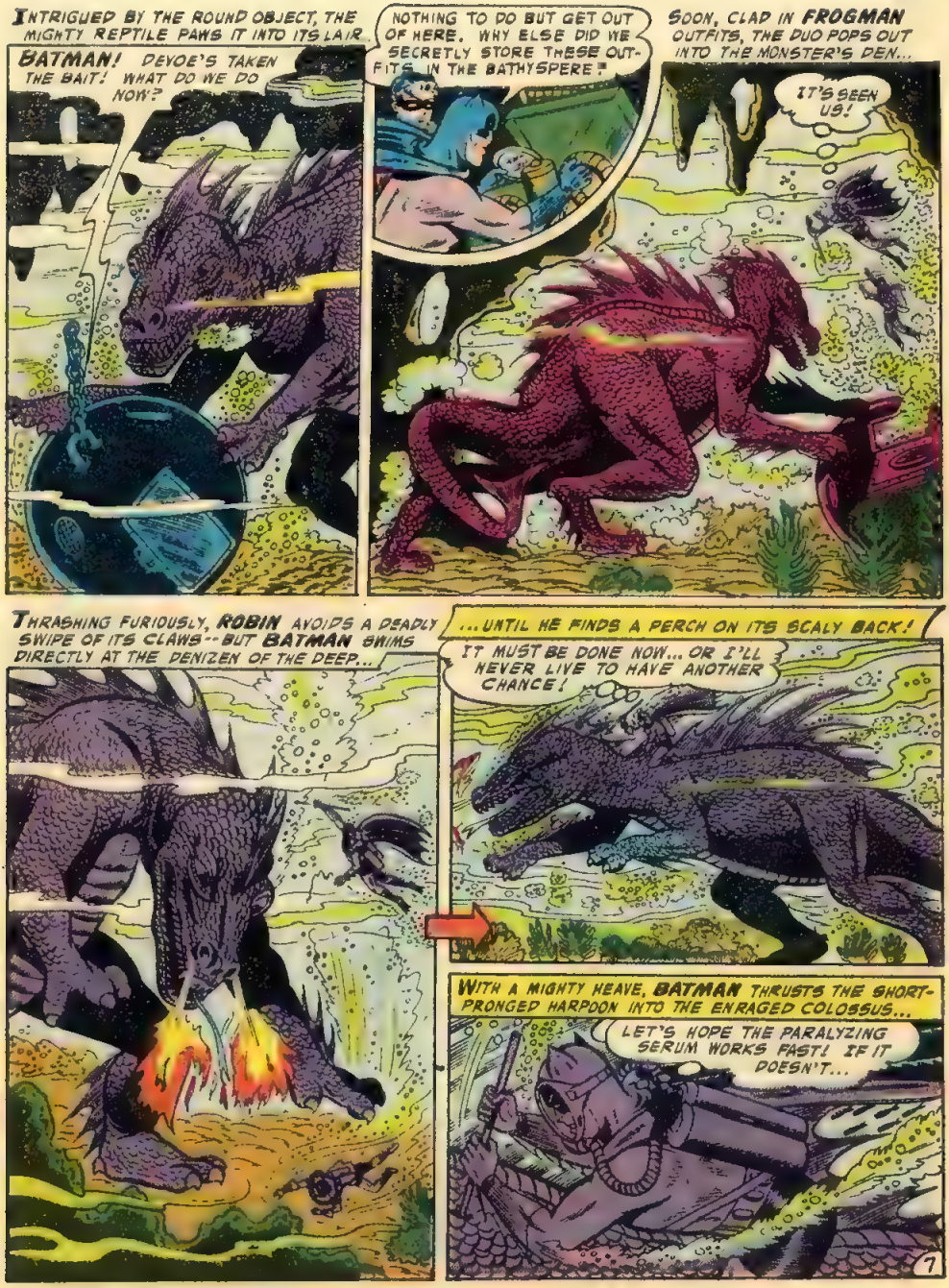

THAT NIGHT, ABOARD SHIP, THE HUNTERS WAIT TENSELY...
BATMAN, ARE YOU SURE THOSE TWO RIFLES WILL DO THE TRICK?
I HOPE SO! THEY'RE LOADED WITH TINY HARPOONS CONTAINING A CHEMICAL THAT SHOULD PARALYZE THE CREATURE ON CONTACT!
SUDDENLY, IN A SMOTHER OF FOAM, A SCALY BULK HUNCHES UP FROM THE SEA...
THE MONSTER!
AS THE GREAT REPTILE HURLS ITSELF UPON THE SHIP...
WHAT--? FERGUS!... DON'T FIRE AGAIN!
MISSED!
BAM

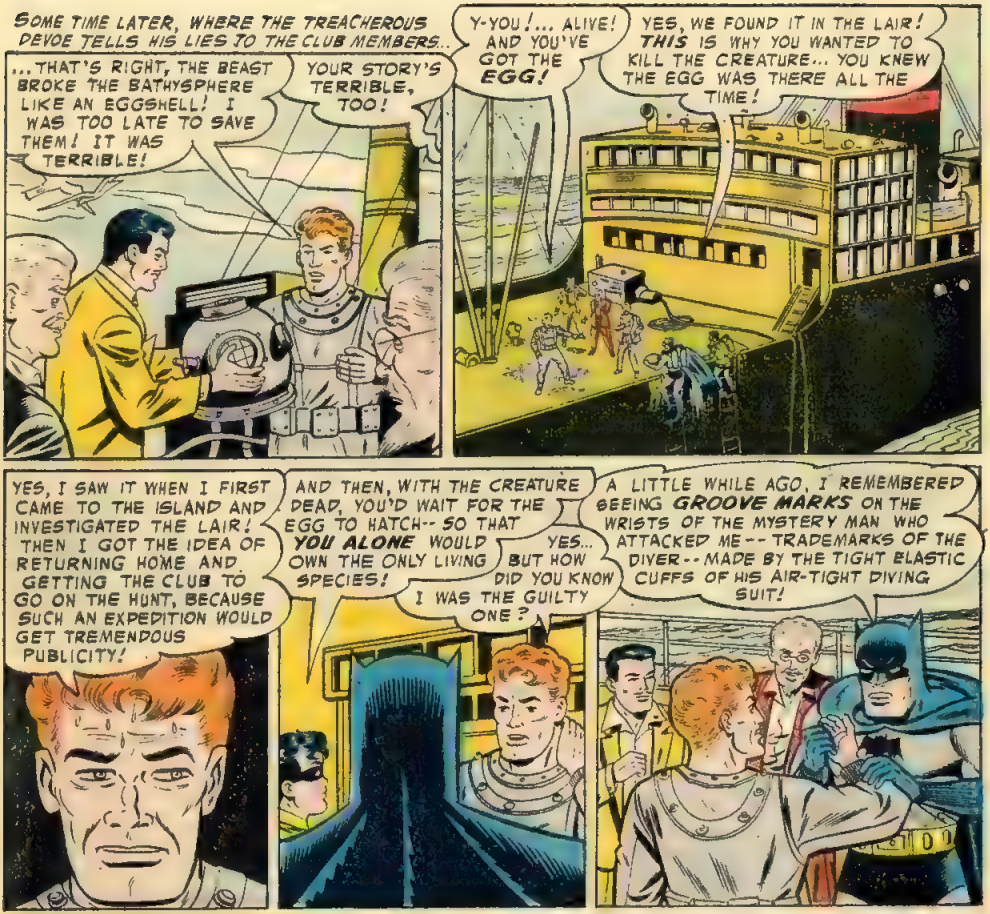

IN A SURPRISE MOVE, BATMAN SNATCHES UP ROBIN'S FLASH CAMERA, AND...
I DON'T GET IT... IS HE TRYING TO GET PICTURES OF THE MONSTER BEFORE WE PARALYZE IT?
REACHING THE TOP OF THE MAST, BATMAN BRAZENLY EXPLODES FLASHBULBS AT THE DRAGON-LIKE HEAD...
POP!
POP!
...SO THAT THE HUGE CREATURE, BAFFLED BY THE SEARING GUN-BURSTS OF GLARE, GOES PLUNGING BACK INTO THE DEPTHS!

AFTERWARDS...
WHY DIDN'T YOU LET ME BRING BOBONGA DOWN WITH OUR PARALYZER-HARPOONS?
LOOK AT WHAT YOUR FIRST SHOT DID TO THE SHIP'S RAIL... SOMEONE REMOVED THE HARPOONS AND SUBSTITUTED HIGH-CALIBER EXPLOSIVE BULLETS!
EVEN THOUGH IT MEANS DESTROYING A FORTUNE, FOR SOME ODD REASON, ONE OF YOU DOES NOT WANT THE CREATURE BROUGHT BACK ALIVE!
INDEED, A SHORT WHILE LATER, AS BATMAN TAKES HIS TURN AT NIGHT WATCH...
NOW'S MY CHANCE... I'LL THROW BATMAN OVERBOARD, THEN TELL THE OTHERS THAT THE MONSTER CAME UP AND SNATCHED HIM OFF THE DECK!
JUST IN TIME, HOWEVER, THE MASKED LAWMAN GLIMPSES TWO HANDS WHIPPING A SACK OVER HIS HEAD...
OH, OH... SOMEONE TRYING TO SMOTHER ME!
INSTANTLY, HE RAMS HIS ELBOW REARWARD...
OOF!
CAN'T HOLD HIM--- HE'S TOO STRONG!
BUT BY THE TIME BATMAN REMOVES THE SACK...
HE'S GONE! WHOEVER IT WAS, HE'S AFRAID TO LET ME LIVE, BECAUSE I MIGHT PREVENT HIM FROM DESTROYING THE DINOSAUR!
NEXT DAY, AS RITUAL DRUMS SEND OUT A THROBBING CALL TO THE SEA...
THE NATIVES SAY BABONGA ALWAYS APPEARS WHEN THEY POUND THE DRUMS! WHEN IT DOES, THE KNOCKOUT GAS IN THESE BOMBS WILL DO THE REST!
TOM TOM TOM


ABRUPTLY, A GIGANTIC HEAD REARS UP FROM THE WATERS...
AI-EE! BABONGA COMES!
OKAY, ROBIN--GET READY WITH YOUR GAS BOMB!
BUT IN THE NEXT MOMENT...
ROBIN! PUT THE BOMB DOWN! DON'T THROW IT!
WHAT--?
SNATCHING UP A DRUM, BATMAN POUNDS AND POUNDS, TILL THE BEAST TURNS IN ANSWER TO ITS BEAT...
BATMAN'S LURING THE CREATURE AFTER HIM... SO THAT IT WON'T HURT ANY OF US! WHAT A GUY!
TOM-TOM-TOM
CLOSER, EVER CLOSER POUND THE CLAWED FEET OF THE LUMBERING COLOSSUS...
JUST A LITTLE MORE--AND I'LL BE AT THE TOP...
TOM-TOM-TOM
SECONDS LATER, AS THE CLIFF CRUMBLES UNDER THE TREMENDOUS TONNAGE, MAN AND MONSTER PLUNGE TO THE WATERS BELOW...
...WHERE BATMAN TAKES COVER FROM THE BAFFLED BEAST!
GUESS IT'S SAFE TO GO UP NOW...


SHORTLY...
WHY DIDN'T YOU LOB A GAS BOMB AT THE BEAST?
BECAUSE AS I HELD ONE IN THROWING POSITION--LIKE THIS--I HEARD LIQUID SLOSHING ABOUT INSIDE!
UPON OPENING THE MISSILE...
JUST AS I SUSPECTED... SOMEONE SUBSTITUTED A POISONOUS ACID! THAT SAME SOMEONE IS STILL TRYING TO PREVENT US FROM BRINGING BACK OUR QUARRY ALIVE!
SSSS
LATER...
WHO COULD IT BE? BRIGGS?... FERGUS?... SLOAN?... DEVOE?
IT CAN'T BE DEVOE! HE'S THE ONE WHO TOLD US ABOUT THE CREATURE AND ORGANIZED THE EXPEDITION! SO IT HAS TO BE ONE OF THE OTHER THREE... BUT WHICH ONE?
PRESENTLY...
I'LL GO DOWN IN THE BATHYSPHERE AND LOCATE THE BEAST'S LAIR..
NO, PROFESSOR--ROBIN AND I WILL GO... AND DEVOE WILL FOLLOW US DOWN IN A DIVING RIG, TO MAKE SURE THE BATHYSPHERE HASN'T BEEN SABOTAGED, TOO!
NEXT INSTANT, AS THE BATHYSPHERE, CUT FROM ITS ONE LINK TO THE SURFACE, DROPS LIKE AN ANCHOR.
SO LONG, BATMAN! YOU WON'T INTERFERE WITH MY PLANS ANYMORE!
BUT AWHILE LATER, AS BATHYSPHERE AND DIVER DESCEND, DEVOE HAS HIS PRIVATE THOUGHTS
BATMAN PLAYED RIGHT INTO MY HANDS! I'LL CUT THE CHAIN WITH THESE POWERFUL CLIPPERS... THEN I'LL GO UP AND SAY THE CREATURE DID IT, WITH HIS TEETH!
6


INTRIGUED BY THE ROUND OBJECT, THE MIGHTY REPTILE PAWS IT INTO ITS LAIR...
BATMAN! DEVOE'S TAKEN THE BAIT! WHAT DO WE DO NOW?
NOTHING TO DO BUT GET OUT OF HERE. WHY ELSE DID WE SECRETLY STORE THESE OUTFITS IN THE BATHYSPERE?
SOON, CLAD IN FROGMAN OUTFITS, THE DUO POPS OUT INTO THE MONSTER'S DEN...
IT'S SEEN US!
THRASHING FURIOUSLY, ROBIN AVOIDS A DEADLY SWIPE OF ITS CLAWS--BUT BATMAN SWIMS DIRECTLY AT THE DENIZEN OF THE DEEP...
...UNTIL HE FINDS A PERCH ON ITS SCALY BACK!
IT MUST BE DONE NOW... OR I'LL NEVER LIVE TO HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!
WITH A MIGHTY HEAVE, BATMAN THRUSTS THE SHORT-PRONGED HARPOON INTO THE ENRAGED COLOSSUS...
LET'S HOPE THE PARALYZING SERUM WORKS FAST! IF IT DOESN'T...


SOME TIME LATER, WHERE THE TREACHEROUS DEVOE TELLS HIS LIES TO THE CLUB MEMBERS...
...THAT'S RIGHT, THE BEAST BROKE THE BATHYSPHERE LIKE AN EGGSHELL! I WAS TOO LATE TO SAVE THEM! IT WAS TERRIBLE!
YOUR STORY'S TERRIBLE, TOO!
Y-YOU!... ALIVE! AND YOU'VE GOT THE EGG!
YES, WE FOUND IT IN THE LAIR! THIS IS WHY YOU WANTED TO KILL THE CREATURE... YOU KNEW THE EGG WAS THERE ALL THE TIME!
YES, I SAW IT WHEN I FIRST CAME TO THE ISLAND AND INVESTIGATED THE LAIR! THEN I GOT THE IDEA OF RETURNING HOME AND GETTING THE CLUB TO GO ON THE HUNT, BECAUSE SUCH AN EXPEDITION WOULD GET TREMENDOUS PUBLICITY!
AND THEN, WITH THE CREATURE DEAD, YOU'D WAIT FOR THE EGG TO HATCH-- SO THAT YOU ALONE WOULD OWN THE ONLY LIVING SPECIES!
YES... BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW I WAS THE GUILTY ONE?
A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I REMEMBERED SEEING GROOVE MARKS ON THE WRISTS OF THE MYSTERY MAN WHO ATTACKED ME-- TRADEMARKS OF THE DIVER-- MADE BY THE TIGHT ELASTIC CUFFS OF HIS AIR-TIGHT DIVING SUIT!
AND SO, WHEN THE SHIP HEADS HOMEWARD WITH THE LIVING CREATURE IN ITS SPECIAL TANK...
DEVOE WOULDN'T HAVE LIVED LONG ENOUGH TO CASH IN ON HIS PLAN ANYHOW! HE DIDN'T KNOW THAT THIS TYPE OF REPTILE EGG TAKES 100 YEARS TO HATCH!
BECAUSE OF THAT, AND BECAUSE YOU CAPTURED THE CREATURE FOR US, THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE 50 FATHOMS CLUB HAVE VOTED YOU A SUITABLE REWARD..
THUS DOES THE BAT-CAVE SOON ACQUIRE THE MOST UNUSUAL OF ALL ITS TROPHIES...
JUST THINK... WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE THAT EGG HATCH IN OUR LIFETIME; BUT THE NEXT BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL!
END.

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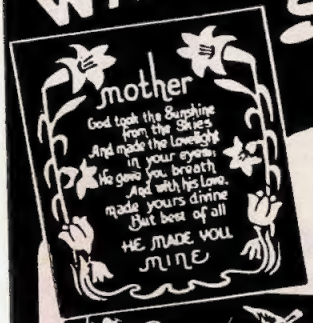
mother
God took the Sunshine from the Skies
And made the Lovelight in your eyes;
He gave you breath
And with his Love,
made yours divine
But best of all
HE MADE YOU MINE

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If I should Die before I Wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take

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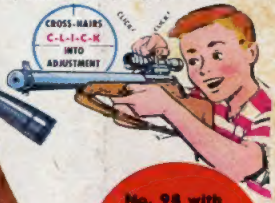

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